

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 18 – 29 and 31, as indicated below.

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A computer system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, wherein the memory comprises program instructions configured to implement:

~~a first devices, and~~

a plurality of device drivers, each operable to:

monitor an operational status of ~~the first one of a plurality of~~
devices, and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the ~~first~~
monitored device, to generate fault report data indicating
whether the change of operational status of the first device
was caused internally within the ~~first~~ monitored device or
externally by another device connected to the ~~first~~
monitored device; and

a fault response process operable to analyze generated fault report data
generated by one or more of the plurality of device drivers to
determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.

19. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device.

20. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein, if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device was caused externally, the device driver is operable to generate fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

21. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the ~~first~~ monitored device is still operational but with impaired performance, or down, indicating that the ~~first~~ monitored device is not operational.

22. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device is determined from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the ~~first~~ monitored device, whether information is being correctly processed, or from an error interrupt signal generated by the ~~first~~ monitored device.

23. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of the~~device drivers~~ is operable to generate environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with a device or group of devices, or a Field Replaceable Unit (FRU) containing one or more devices.

24. (Currently amended) A computer system as claimed in Claim 18, wherein each of the plurality of~~device drivers~~ generates the operational status information from at least one of: a number of memory accesses performed, a time taken to respond to a command, and an amount of data processed.

25. (Currently amended) A method, ~~of controlling a first device of a computer system, the method comprising:~~

monitoring an operational status of each of a plurality of the first devices;

for each monitored device:

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device, generating fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device was caused internally within the ~~first~~ monitored device or externally by another device connected to the ~~first~~ monitored device; and

analyzing generated fault report data for one or more of the monitored devices to determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.

26. (Currently amended) A method ~~of controlling a device as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the fault report data includes an indication of an operational status of the~~ first monitored device.

27. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

if the fault report data indicates that the change of operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device was caused externally, generating fault direction information indicative of a connection from which the external fault is perceived.

28. (Currently amended) A method ~~of controlling a device as claimed in Claim 25, wherein the operational status of the~~ first monitored device is one of: up, indicating no fault, degraded, indicating that the ~~first~~ monitored device is still operational but with

impaired performance, or down, indicating that the ~~first~~ monitored device is not operational.

29. (Currently amended) A method ~~of controlling a device~~ as claimed in Claim 28, further comprising:

determining the operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device from at least one of: a time to respond to a command, an amount of data communicated via an I/O bus, an amount of data processed by the ~~first~~ monitored device, whether information is being correctly processed or from error interrupt signal generated by a device.

30. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in Claim 25, further comprising:

generating environment data representative of at least one parameter value of at least one sensor associated with a device or group of devices, or a Field Replaceable Unit (FRU) containing one or more devices.

31. (Currently amended) A computer readable medium comprising a computer program, the computer program including computer-executable instructions, which, when loaded onto a computer system comprising a processor[[,]] and a memory~~and a first device~~, provide a plurality of device drivers, each operable to:

monitor an operational status of ~~the first one of a plurality of~~ devices, and

consequent upon a change in the operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device, generate fault report data indicating whether the change of operational status of the ~~first~~ monitored device was caused internally within the ~~first~~ monitored device or externally by another device connected to the ~~first~~ monitored device; and

wherein the computer-executable instructions further provide a fault response process operable to analyze generated fault report data generated by one or more of the device drivers to determine a faulty one of the plurality of devices.